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THE LEARNED

SPEECH

OF

J**** ** P***,

TO THE

G---- J----,

OF THE

C------y of M----x,

ON

Monday

The 19th of *November*, 1739.

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PREFACE.

THERE is no need of ſaying much in Behalf of the following Speech, ſince it will ſufficiently ſound forth its own Praiſe.

Much Commendation is due, for the Purity of its Language, the Decency of its Stile, and the Regularity with which the Whole is conducted. In ſhort, it does infinite Honour to the Speaker, and, no doubt, will equally delight the Reader.

The Publick may reſt aſſured of its being genuine; and great Care has been

been taken in the tranſcribing, the Editor being too ſenſible of his own Inability to mend it, committed it to the Preſs, as delivered to him, for an Original; and thinks it no Diſgrace to own, that it is out of his Power, in the leaſt, to imitate, much leſs is he able to add any Embelliſhments to it.

THE

THE SPEECH OF *J***** P***,* ON The 19th of *November*, 1739.

Gentlemen,

YOU are, no doubt, ſenſible of the Occaſion of our preſent Meeting, therefore I need not explain it to you. It is, *Gentlemen*, to enquire into the ſeveral Abuſes and Irregularities which have been committed,

and are daily committed, *Gentlemen*, even in the Face of the Sun. And herein, *Gentlemen*, it would not be improper, I hope, to inform you of what, perhaps, many of you are as well, if not better, informed than myſelf. However, *Gentlemen*, you'll excuſe me juſt to mention it; I mean, the Occaſion of the preſent D----n of W--r againſt *Spain*. His M---y, *Gentlemen*, has always had the Good of His People at Heart; that, I believe, you are not unacquainted with. No K--g, *Gentlemen*, no Pr--ce in *Europe*, ever carried the Glory of this Nation to a greater Height than his preſent M---y. His M---y, *Gentlemen*, has had the Happineſs to be bleſſed with a wiſe and prudent M---ry, which has not a little contributed to thoſe good and deſirable Ends. And, *Gentlemen*, let me tell you, it grieves me not a little, to hear of your common People, the vulgar Sort I mean, *Gentlemen*: If

you

you go to any little petty Alehouſes, or Cellars, or ſuch-like Places of Reſort, *Gentlemen*, you will not fail to hear them railing againſt the worthy *Gentlemen* in the A----n; and trying and condemning them, *Gentlemen*, without Mercy; when, at the ſame Time, *Gentlemen*, they neither know one Side nor t'other.

But from whence does this Diſſatisfaction, this railing at our preſent Meaſures, proceed? Why I'll tell you, *Gentlemen*; It proceeds from a Faction, a wicked Sett of Men, who are not an inconſiderable Number, *Gentlemen*, who make Parties, and diſtinguiſh themſelves by the Names of *Whigs* and *Tories*. *Gentlemen*, they endeavour to ſow the Seeds of Diſſention amongſt us; but, I hope, will be defeated in their Deſigns. *Gentlemen*, it is no new Thing to be accounted a Whig or a Tory; Parties have been diſtinguiſhed by thoſe

Names in the Times of our Great Grandfathers. But what is a Whig, *Gentlemen*? or, what is a Tory? I confeſs I know not. A Man that is an honeſt Man, a well meaning Man, *Gentlemen*, would abhor both thoſe Appellations. I take him to be an honeſt Man, *Gentlemen*, who diligently attends his Calling; who faithfully ſerves his K--g and his Country in whatſoever Station he is in. But it's unaccountable, *Gentlemen*, to run into Party Extreams. Party Extreams, *Gentlemen*, has been the Ruin of many an honeſt Man, many an honeſt Family; therefore let me recommend it to you, *Gentlemen*, to diſcountenance every thing, as much as in you lies, that may have any Tendency to inflame and corrupt the People.

Gentlemen, you are not ignorant, I dare ſay, of the Happineſs we have all along enjoyed under the preſent Ad----n;

Ad----n; and ſhould ſtill have enjoyed it, had it not been for the Ambition and Avarice of a neighbouring K--g. No doubt you all know who I mean, *Gentlemen*; it is the K---g of *Spain*. Him, *Gentlemen*, is poſſeſſed of the greateſt Part of *America*; and his Subjects, *Gentlemen*, have ſet up many unwarrantable Claims of ſearching our Ships upon the open Seas. They have infeſted thoſe Seas with Pirates, plundered a great Number of our Merchants, and cruelly uſed our Seamen, who were ſo unfortunate to fall under their Clutches. And thereupon, *Gentlemen*, his M--y, out of His paternal Care, took great Pains with the *Spaniſh* Court to bring Things to an Accomodation; and herein, *Gentlemen*, it is well known, that our M----ry uſed all poſſible Means, left no Stone unturned, to procure us a ſafe and honourable P--ce. And, *Gentlemen*, it was thought proper to conclude a C---n,

as

as a Preliminary to a definitive T---ty.

Well, *Gentlemen*, ſo far all Things went right for a ſhort Time, and had the K--g of *S---n* ſtuck to his Bargain, we might have ſaved the Nation a great deal of Blood and Treaſure, which, *Gentlemen*, you are not inſenſible a War will coſt us. A War you know, *Gentlemen*, is a terrible Thing, a very terrible Thing; and is attended with very deſtructive and calamitous Circumſtances. Not to mention, *Gentlemen*, what it muſt be to a trading Nation, a Nation that lives by Trade, as we do. To be ſure, *Gentlemen*, a War muſt ſtop the Current and Trade of our Navigation; this we muſt always expect, in ſome meaſure, more or leſs, while that continues.

Therefore, *Gentlemen*, as I told you before, his M---y having nothing

at

at Heart, ſo much as the Good and Proſperity of theſe K--ms, entered into a C----n for accommodating all the Differences between the two Cr--ns, and for eſtabliſhing a free and uninterrupted Trade and Commerce, for the fnture, between the two K--ms. Why, *Gentlemen*, a K--g that won't take Care of his S--ts Rights, is a poor K--, a pitiful K---- indeed, and deſerves neither to be remember'd here, nor hereafter.

But our K--g, *Gentlemen*, to His Honour and Glory be it ſpoken, has always made it His firſt Care, the Preſervation of His People. To Him, *Gentlemen*, what S--bj--ct ever petitioned for Redreſs of Grievances, that was not relieved? His M----y, *Gentlemen*, is always governed by Law; you never heard of any of our Laws being trampled upon by Him, as was too frequent in former Reigns.

I appeal

I appeal to your Hearts, your Conſciences, *Gentlemen*, if what I ſay is not true.

Gentlemen, you have the Happineſs to live in a Reign, in which there is not one Vice, one Wickedneſs, practiſed amongſt us; but if you look into the Acts of P---t, made by our wiſe Leg---ure, you will find it effectually provided againſt, and a Puniſhment allotted for it.

Why, is not this a great Bleſſing, *Gentlemen*, that every Man may judge his own Cauſe, and, upon firſt Sight, find a proper Remedy for it? Undoubtedly it is.

But, as I was ſaying, *Gentlemen*, his M---y, for the Good of His People, and by the Advice and Direction of His M---ry, entered into a C---n, which, if the C---rt of *Spain* had

had been in Earneſt, would have effectually remedied all future Differences between the two K---ms. But, *Gentlemen*, in Proceſs of Time, all this appeared to be nothing at all but a Trick, a Quirk, a mere Grimace, on the Part of *Sp---n*; they, it ſeems, never intended us any Relief, any Satisfaction. But, nevertheleſs, *Gentlemen*, our Ad---n deſerve greatly to be commended, for trying all peaceable Means firſt.

For, *Gentlemen*, let me tell you, the K--g of *Sp---n* had ſome ſmall Demands of another Nature upon us. Therefore, *Gentlemen*, it was agreed, that the Demands on both Sides ſhould be ſtated, in order for us to receive the Ballance of our Demands, as in a Caſe of a private Nature, a private Dealing between Man and Man. Why, if one Man refuſes to ſettle with the other, or to pay him his juſt Dues, why, *Gentlemen*, where

there are Demands on both Sides, its thought very unadviſable to go to Law: No, *Gentlemen*, you'd firſt try all peaceable Means to bring the Perſon over to Reaſon, if you could, before you run into an expenſive Law-Suit. So, *Gentlemen*, when his M---y had tried every Way, and found all unſucceſsful, why then, and not before, *Gentlemen*, his M---y thought fit to declare W^r.

A W^r, as I ſaid before, *Gentlemen*, is a terrible Thing; it is attended with a vaſt Expence, and therefore, *Gentlemen*, it is beſt to uſe all poſſible Means to prevent it. But, *Gentlemen*, as his M---y found it inconſiſtent with His Honour to bear theſe Indignities any longer, He has declared W-r, and accordingly fitted out a very large Fleet, at a great Expence: And, to our Praiſe be it ſpoken, we have a Fleet ſufficient (but I hope, *Gentlemen*, it will never

never come to the Trial) ſufficient, *Gentlemen*, to beat all the Naval Forces in *Europe*.

But however, *Gentlemen*, it may ſo happen, that, take all the Care you can, it may, and has been, out of your Power to prevent an Invaſion. Therefore, *Gentlemen*, you ought to be very careful how you ſuffer the Seeds of Sedition to be ſown amongſt you: For, *Gentlemen*, your Enemies will never fail to improve that to their Advantage. And, let me tell you, *Gentlemen*, it is not a little owing to the Heats and Animoſities amongſt us, that the K---g of *Spain* refuſed to fulfil his Engagements with us. Foreign Powers, *Gentlemen*, take all Advantages of the Diſturbances and Diviſions amongſt us at home, and would, if they could ſee Opportunity, make uſe of their old Weapon, I mean, play the Pr-t--der upon us. There-

fore, *Gentlemen*, it behoves you to unite for the Preſervation of your Liberties, Lives and Fortunes: For, *Gentlemen*, if our Enemies ſhould get the better of us, why then we ſhould have another Religion, another Church, another Government.

When ever any Perſon would cenſure the Ad---n, *Gentlemen*, let him but conſider, that he is a very improper Perſon to judge, ſince he can't have the Intelligence that the *Gentlemen* in the M---ry have.

They, *Gentlemen*, have the beſt of Intelligence from foreign Courts, and are capable of giving Reaſons for what they do, which it's impoſſible ſhould ever enter into your Heads, becauſe you are generally miſinformed of the true State of Affairs.

I there-

I therefore can't help ſaying, *Gentlemen*, that it is a great Piece of Preſumption to intermeddle with Reaſons of State.

Gentlemen, I muſt recommend to you, in a particular manner, at this Time, to be all unanimous in the common Cauſe. Suffer not, *Gentlemen*, the defamatory Libels which are daily diſperſed thro' this Kingdom, to have any Effect upon you. For you may aſſure yourſelves, *Gentlemen*, that no more will be required of you, as good and loving Subjects, than is needful at this preſent Juncture of Affairs.

But, before I quit you, *Gentlemen*, I muſt inform you, that it is your Duty, as well as Intereſt, as loyal Subjects to his M---y, to be diligent in correcting Vice, in whatever Corner you may chance to find it. It

is, now-a-days, common, *Gentlemen*, very common, for moſt of your publick Houſes to entertain your looſe Women of the Town, I mean Wh-res, *Gentlemen*; theſe Houſes are vulgarly called *Bawdy Houſes*: And theſe Places, *Gentlemen*, are the Repoſitories and Nurſeries for all the Rogues in the Town. Night Cellars too, I would include in the Number. From hence, *Gentlemen*, in the Night, as ſoon as it is dark, *Gentlemen*, out of their Holes they come, and whip to the firſt fly Place; then, the firſt Man they meet, down they knock him, whip off his Hat and Wig, pick his Pockets, *Gentlemen*, and then down theſe Cellars in an Inſtant. Then, if you go, *Gentlemen*, and inquire for theſe Fellows; No---they know nothing on them---not they---their Houſe is a very honeſt Houſe, and, perhaps, abuſe you for cenſureing them, or imagining they ſhould harbour ſuch Rogues. So then, *Gentlemen*,

tlemen, they are ſafe from Juſtice, and in theſe lurking Holes they burrow like Rabbits.

There are many other Nuſances, *Gentlemen*, which require your immediate Search into: But, as I have taken up much of your Time already, I ſhall not now recount them, being well perſuaded, that you will all do your Duty as good and faithful Subjects.

Laſtly, *Gentlemen*, let me recommend it to you, to be unanimous, be all as one Man, and then, *Gentlemen*, we need not fear WHAT MAN CAN DO UNTO US.

F I N I S.

tlemen, they are safe from Justice, and in their lurking Holes they burrow like Rabbits.

There are many other Nuisances, Gentlemen, which require your immediate Search into: But, as I have taken up much of your Time already, I shall not now recount them, being well perswaded, that you will all do your Duty as good and faithful Subjects.

Lastly, Gentlemen, let me recommend it to you, to be unanimous, be all as one Man, and then, Gentlemen, we [illegible] fear WHAT MAN CAN DO UNTO US.

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FINIS.